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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Community Calendar

Juneteenth celebration set

The City of Romulus will host the annua city Juneteenth Celebration from noon until 5 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at Romulus Historical Park.

The family-friendly event will include vendors, music, crafts, food trucks and activities.

The event is free and open to the public.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. The name is derived from combining June and Nineteenth.

For more information, contact the office of the city clerk at (734)942-7540 or email clerk@romulus-gov.com.

Trailwood Garden Club hosts 27th annual garden walk

The 27th Garden Walk "Flowers are Forever" hosted by the Trailwood Garden Club will take place from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24. Visitors can tour five gardens and find a special item at the plant/treasures sale. Tickets are $12 in advance until midnight Saturday, June 21 and $15 the day of the Garden Walk.

Tickets can be purchased online or at Sideways, 505 Forest Ave. or Specialty Pet Supplies, 1449 West Ann Arbor Road.

For more information or purchase a ticket visit https://www.trailwoodgardenclub.com/

Romulus seeking heroes

The annual awards are presented to individuals who made a real difference in the community, Educators, community members, seniors, neighbors, students and businesses are eligible for the award. For more information and qualifications or an application, access fromulsgov.com or UnityAbb@gmail.com

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Joint police blitz nabs 23 shoplifting suspects

Police from Canton, Northville and Plymouth townships arrested 23 suspects last week in a coordinated effort to disrupt or dismantle a retail shoplifting ring.

Retail industry reports show more than $100 billion is lost nationwide to large-scale theft of merchandise that is often resold for profit. Last year, Canton officers investigated 563 incidents of retail fraud—defined as the theft of merchandise from retail establishments during business hours, according to a police report. "These crimes not only lead to increased costs for consumers but also pose safety risks to employees and customers, particularly when suspects are confronted by store personnel or loss prevention staff," police said.

The latest effort, in cooperation with 17 local and national retailers was part of a larger country-wide two-day effort called the Organized Retail Crime Blitz. This operation was also part of a larger national initiative in which more than 100 law enforcement agencies across 40 states conducted similar enforcement actions targeting organized retail crime, police said.

> *Ultimately, we're all paying extra for our items, and the prices continue to go up, and we're here to combat that problem.*

Locally, the crime blitz took place in 36 locations in Canton and officers worked with loss prevention officers from 16 separate retailers. In one instance, Canton officers arrested a woman outside a local shopping center and removed multiple articles of clothing from the pregnant woman's shirt. That arrest was among the nearly two dozen made during the coordinated two-day effort to discourage thefts from local merchants.

"These boosters, which is what we call them, shoplifters, people stealing items, a lot of them are drug addicts who are going out there stealing these items. The high-dollar value items to sell to a fence," said Canton Police Lt. Michael Andes. Fences can be found at gas stations, liquor stores, or pawn shops where stolen goods are sold at minimal prices, often pennies on the retail dollar value. Fences then resell the items.

Canton Township Police Chief Chad Baugh said thieves keep improving their strategies and that the efforts of retailers to help stop thefts are critical.

Typically, loss prevention specialists who observe suspicious individuals carefully watch them inside the stores. If they notice a theft, they report it to police officers posted outside the store and if the individual leaves with stolen merchandise, officers stop the suspected thief and, if found with stolen goods, arrest the individual.

During the blitz last week, one suspect was found with a device to defeat the security tag in her purse. Police said the suspect was using it to pry security tags off several hundred dollars' worth of clothing which she attempted to take from the store. Another woman was arrested outside the Michigan Avenue Home Depot where loss prevention agents said she had stolen several items. She entered a car in the parking lot where another woman was waiting, police said, and subsequently both were found to have outstanding warrants.

Police said the annual losses to theft in Canton Township alone totaled "millions of dollars" and that cost is then passed on to customers.

"Ultimately, we're all paying extra for our items, and the prices continue to go up, and we're here to combat that problem as well as bringing these addicts into our community that are committing crimes, and that's what we don't want to have here," Andes told a local television station.

Honored

Romulus Deputy City Clerk awarded 2025 title by state association

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull has been honored as the Deputy Clerk of the Year by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. The prestigious award was presented to the Romulus Deputy Clerk during an official ceremony last week.

Hockenhull has served as the City of Romulus Deputy Clerk since September of 2020. He was appointed to the position during the 2020 Presidential election. Hockenhull began his career with the municipality in 2007 working at the 34th District Court.

Hockenhull was nominated for the honor by Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight.

"D'Sjonaun identified the need and oversaw the implementation of a number of efficiencies to enhance not only the day-to-day operations of the city clerk's office, but all city departments.

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull

"Some notable projects include implementation of DocuSign, automated FOIA software, online applications, and forms…Romulus is fortunate to employ such a talented and dedicated young man, and I am proud to submit his name for consideration for the MAMC 2025 Deputy Clerk of the Year," McCraight said in his nominating letter.

Hockenhull was also nominated for the honor by long-time City Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg.

"His ability to build strong relationships with colleagues, elected officials, and community leaders contributes to a positive work environment. D'Sjonaun has a strong understanding of municipal and election law, which can be showcased by successfully coordinating an Early Voting site during the 2024 election cycle and dedicating the time to study Prop 22-2 and the new election laws," she said.

Hockenhull secured a $27,000 Election Security Grant through FEMA administered by Michigan State Police to enhance and upgrade the security camera system for the City of Romulus early voting site. In addition to the grant, he created training manuals and procedures for processing early voting ballots, officials said.

Hockenhull is an active member of the Association of Wayne County Clerks, MAMC, IIMC, and Michigan Municipal League. In 2023 he was elected treasurer for the Association of Wayne County Clerks and then re-elected in 2025. In addi-

See Clerk, page 2.

Canton Liberty Fest includes annual International Festival

One of the most highly anticipated events of the traditional Canton Liberty Fest will return this year when the International Festival takes place from 11:30 until 5 p.m. Saturday, June 14 at the Schoolcraft College LIVE! State located on the north side of Heritage Park.

The celebration of diversity includes free performances suitable for all ages. Featured countries across the globe participating this year include: China, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Tahiti, and others.

"Every year, our International Festival provides a great opportunity for audience members to experience music and dance from around the globe that helps bridge cultures and presents unique musical entertainment all in one location," said Canton

See Festival, page 2.

Crowds enjoy a previous performance during the Canton Liberty Fest International Festival, set for Saturday this year.

Northville Legacy Park is named as Project of the Year

Northville Township's 350-acre Legacy Park has been named the 2025 Project of the Year by the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The organization recognized the "Redevelop & Recycle: Legacy Park" project at the annual conference. In addition to Northville Township, the project contractor, Asbestos Abatement Inc. and consultant Fleis & VandenBrink, were included in the award.

"This was a great achievement for our community," said Director of Public Services Bob Belair. "The board of trustees had a vision to get these buildings down after owning the site for several years. We finally have a clean palette to start developing the park and making it accessible to our residents who own the property."

Legacy Park has been a multi-year project. Once the former Northville Psychiatric State Hospital on Seven Mile Road, Northville Township took ownership of the property as a result of a successful millage election in 2009. The goal of the land purchase was to provide recreational opportunities for township residents and to preserve a unique piece of nature within the community. At the time, there were 22 deteriorating buildings, a water tower, smokestacks, related utility tunnels and roads on the 350-acre site.

Celebrating the award naming Legacy Park in Northville as the 2025 Project of the Year from the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) are, from left, APWA Past President Brandy Siedlaczek, Flieis and Vandenbrink Senior Project Manager Trevor Woollat, Northville Township Public Services Director Bob Belair and APWA President Jennifer Lawson.

Demolition of the nine-story main hospital was completed in 2018. Northville Township approached this in a fiscally responsible manner, completing the project. Beginning in 2022 and completed in 2023, all remaining 10 buildings were safely abated and demolished, leaving a blank slate to shape a recreation and public services complex.

Throughout the demolition, Northville Township and Asbestos Abatement Inc. recycled much of the concrete, building debris and steel. Much of the concrete was ground down and reused under the foundation of the new Essential Services Complex and as the base of the parking lot. Some of the recycled concrete material was sold and put into roads being constructed throughout the state. The steel and metal were recycled or scrapped to keep prices down on the project, officials noted.

"This Project of the Year honor acknowledges how truly special Legacy Park is," said Township Supervisor Mark J. Abbo. "Northville Township prizes its greenspace and we are committed to being good stewards of the crown jewel of our community. It remains a work in progress but the best is yet to come."

Clerk

From page 1

tion, he serves as the treasurer of the Juneteenth Planning Committee and member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Planning Committee for the City of Romulus.

Hockenhull currently serves on the Michigan Municipal League (MML) Municipal Services Committee and the MML Municipal Services Subcommittee on Elections where he offers a clerk's perspective on bills introduced by the Legislature. He said his goal is to elevate the voices of clerks in other domains of government while using relevant connections to solve complex issues. Hockenhull is also an advocate for the needs of the profession by budgeting appropriately and responsibly, officials noted.

"My prior experience gave me only a limited understanding of the role. I was quickly overwhelmed by the breadth of responsibilities. It's truly a job no single person can fully handle. I see my position as a gatekeeper for the clerk…They trust that the office is running smoothly, as if they were personally overseeing every detail," Hockenhull said.

The MAMC is a professional organization that exists to promote, enhance, and encourage the professional development and standing of municipal clerks through cooperation, communication, education and training by utilizing seminars, institutes and meetings; to promote and encourage improvement of methods and procedures of duties performed by clerks; and to address legislative matters relating to the municipal clerk's responsibilities, according to a prepared statement.

Of the eight states that administer elections on the local level, Michigan is one of the largest with 280 city clerks and 1,240 township clerks. The Michigan elections system is administered by 1,603 county and local election officials making it one of the most decentralized in the nation. There are an additional 257 village clerks in Michigan, represented by the MAMC, the statement continued.

The award was presented at the 25th Annual MAMC Summer Conference – Sterling Silver Jubilee Celebration on June 5. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson addressed the crowd of clerks and presented her recognition to the award recipients.

Festival

From page 1

Performing Arts Coordinator Ben Frick. "Audiences will be delighted as the stage comes alive with colorful costuming, exotic instruments and stirring rhythms when these talented individuals share their heritage and some traditions that date back centuries."

Groups and performers are scheduled to take the stage at the following times:

11:30-12:30 p.m. Hoaloha Polynesian Dance Group; SYZ Starlight Dance Group; Unity in Diversity – Aadyam Dance School

12:30-1:30 p.m. Sweet & Spice; CiCi's Dance Club; Canton YiRen Dance Group; Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Children's Traditional Dance; Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Children's Contemporary Dance; Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Yoyo Team; and Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Adult Contemporary Dance

1:30-2:30 p.m. Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Adult Traditional Dance; Michigan New Century Chinese School (MNCCS) Chinese Traditional Instrumental Music; Sitar performance by Students of Manjula Verma

2:30-3:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Jade Dance Studio; Michigan Chinese Folk-Dance Group; New Century Dance Group; Tree Town Multicultural Dance League

3:30-4:30 p.m. AnnHua Waist Drum Team; Ann-Hua Chinese Music Ensemble; Mimi's Rockstars; Parul's Dance Corner

4:30 p.m. D S2dios; AnnHua Gongs & Drums; Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan.

The three-day Liberty Fest begins today in Heritage Park in Canton and continues through Saturday. The annual fireworks display will take place at dusk on Friday. Heritage Park is located adjacent to the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, between Cherry Hill Road and Summit Parkway.

A complete guide to the festival including a schedule of attractions and map is available at Associatednewspapers.com and in print at multiple locations throughout the area.

For more detailed information visit www.cantonlibertyfest.org or call (734) 394-5460.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
CITY OF ROMULUS, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF ROMULUS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025. Any qualified elector of the City of Romulus who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, July 21, 2025 by 4:00 p.m.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the Romulus City Clerk's office, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The following proposal will appear on the ballot:

Local School District
Romulus Community Schools – Building and Site Bond Proposal

Shall Romulus Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred and Fifty Three Million Dollars ($153,000,000) and issue its unlimited tax general obligation bonds therefore, for the purpose of defraying all or part of the cost of:

Remodeling, or equipping or reequipping school buildings, including structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, or other facilities, or parts of or additions to those facilities; erecting an addition to the transportation building; furnishing or refurnishing new or remodeled school buildings; preparing, developing, or improving sites, or parts of sites, for school buildings, including structures, athletic fields, playgrounds, or other facilities; purchasing school buses; acquiring, installing, or equipping or reequipping school buildings for technology?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in the year 2026, under current law, is 2.70 mills ($2.70 per $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The bonds may be issued in one or more series and may be outstanding for a maximum of twenty five (25) years, exclusive of any refunding. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 5.13 mills ($5.13 per $1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district currently has $21,230,000.00 of qualified bonds outstanding and $0.00 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The school district does not expect to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditures of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator, or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

YES [ ] NO [ ]

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Romulus Community Schools, 36540 Grant Street, Romulus, MI 48174-1400, (734) 783-3300.

PERSONS ENTITLED to be registered voters in the City of Romulus must possess the following qualifications on or before the day of the election: (1) a citizen of the United States; (2) not less than 17 ½ years of age; (3) a resident of the State of Michigan and the City of Romulus (MCL 168.492).

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's office.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, MiPMC, CMC
Romulus City Clerk
(Publish Date: 06/09/2025)

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENT TO FORFEIT

TO: Adam Imran

You are hereby notified that on April 29, 2025, pursuant to MCL 600.4701 et seq, the Canton Township Police Department seized, with intent to forfeit, the following described property: 2008 Cadillac CTS, VIN 1G6DF577680205241. You are not required to do anything further at this time to claim an interest in the seized property. A civil forfeiture matter may follow the criminal proceeding which will require further process of which you will be notified.

You may contact the Canton Township Police Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, phone: 734-394-5400.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals through the bidnetdirect.com / MITN website up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2025, for the following:

VICTORY PARK / ARCTIC EDGE WALK IMPROVEMENTS

Bids may be downloaded on the Bidnet direct / MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All proposals must be submitted through the Bidnet direct / MITN website. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK
Publish 6/12/2025

Romulus
Home of Opportunity
Please join us
JUNETEENTH
Community Celebration
vendors food entertainment fun
Saturday, June 21, 2025
12:00 pm - 500 pm | Historical Park
11120 Hunt St, Romulus
"®-District"
"A day of gathering with family and friends to remember the past and celebrate the future."